



NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 2025

The November BARS general meeting will be in-person at the Chelmsford Bible Church and on Zoom (hybrid).

NOTE: This is the meeting wherein we elect the club's officers for the upcoming year. We will be accepting nominations from the floor (along with any nominations already received). Members in good standing may vote at this meeting.

A Message from the President By Doug Bruce, N1WRN

Greetings, Fellow Members,

I hope that everyone is having a great Fall season. The bands are getting better each day, and the nights are getting longer as well, which is good for DX and chasing that ATNO on the airwaves for your log. The nights will really get longer as of 11/2, when Daylight Saving Time ends.

With the changing of the clocks, a lot of the HF nets will change their start times to take advantage of the longer night of good propagation, especially on the 160, 80 and 40 meter bands. I check into the Maine Potato Net and the Maine Seagull Net, both of which will move their start times back an hour or so. There is a complete list of the many HF nets on the air, so get on the web and check them out. Here is the link for your reference:

[Upcoming Nets - Ham Net Database](#)

[Ham Radio Nets. All of them.](#)

[HamNetList.com - Amateur HAM Radio Net Listings: HF Net List](#)

You should be able to find a net that suits your fancy from these lists. Some of the nets have been around for quite a while.

You can also download NetLogger and search for active nets. Here is that link to download the program:

[NetLogger - Amateur Radio Logging Program](#)

On another note, we will be having our annual Club Elections on Wednesday Night, November 5, 2025, at the Chelmsford Bible Church. Be thinking of nominating yourself or another Club Member for a position as a Club Officer. There is not a huge time commitment, so it is easy to join our leadership team if you are so inclined.

Also, I want to mention our Loaner Program for those who have just earned their license from the FCC. This is a good program where you can borrow equipment for free and see if HF suits your fancy. This also enables you to get on the air as you save up to purchase the equipment for your first station. We have three ICOM 756 stations, and Bruce, W1LUS, has a Kenwood station to loan out. Please feel free to contact Bruce or myself if you are interested in this program for our members.

In my Project Corner discussion this month, I would like to mention that I am upgrading my ground return system for my 160-6 meter top vertical antenna. I currently use my 150-foot chain link fence for a ground return (counterpoise). I have wire interwoven in the fence on about 60 feet on each side of my "antenna tower" a 70 foot oak tree! I will be changing the configuration a bit by taking the wire out of the fence and placing it all on the top bar of the fence, which is about four feet off the ground. This will make an excellent raised radial set up for my antenna. There will be about 700 feet or so of wire on the top bar of the fence, which will be a great mirror to reflect all of the current back up and out of my antenna, as we learned in last month's presentation on EFHW antennas. This is a practical application of some of the ideas from that presentation. This will maximize the amount of current radiated out of my antenna, which is the goal of a good ground return radial system.

Another project my Elmer and I completed was a receiving antenna for my station. We took 70 feet of coax and peeled back the shield and attached two copper lugs to the center conductor of the coax. I then took the 70 feet of wire and wrapped it around four nails in the wall of my cellar to make a loop configuration. I then attached the two end lugs to a balun, and then used a length of coax to attach the antenna to the input of my Tucker Active Antenna. I ran coax from the output of the Tucker to antenna port 3 on my Yaseu FTDX101D. This is a receive only antenna port on the back of my rig. This receiving antenna cuts the noise floor down significantly in my station. I tune the signal on the Tucker to maximize the signal and reduce the noise floor. I used to have twisted pair wire for my receive antenna, but I find that the shielded coax makes a much better receive antenna for my station.

The club had a POTA Activation over at Great Brook Park in Carlisle on Saturday October 25. Chris and Neice were in attendance so hopefully my mentioning that activation here in this space will get more people to show up for the next POTA activation. It seems like a lot of fun to activate a park like that. Kudos to Chris and Neice for setting this up for the Club.

In closing, I hope everyone was able to get on the CQ World Wide Sideband contest on 10/25 and 10/26. It was a great chance to add countries to your log. Like I always say, that microphone isn't going to key itself. We are a G.O.T A. Club, so turn on the radio and get on the air and have some fun!

Until Next Month,

73 and good DX,
Doug
N1WRN

Next BARS meeting: November 5 at 7:00 PM - "The Various Digital Modes" Speaker: Jeffrey Schmidt, N5MNW

I am pleased to announce that our Guest Speaker for the November 5, 2025, hybrid Club Meeting will be Jeffrey Schmidt, N5MNW, from Round Rock, TX, and he will give a presentation entitled "The Various Digital Modes". Here is Jeff's BIO:

I've always been fascinated by Radio. Signal propagation and the "inner workings" have held my interest and helped my career immensely.

Presently, I'm working in the Semiconductor Industry as an Engineering Technician, doing electrical evaluation of the "nuts and bolts" of Integrated Circuits. I'm constantly consulted by my peers as one who can pull the drapery away from an electrical problem and help everyone understand the issues. I

think it's because of Ham Radio and the experimentation it encourages.

The Austin Amateur Radio Club has been offering Ham license classes for several decades. My wife, Lori, KM5MQ, and I are involved with the coordination and instruction of all levels of Ham Radio Licenses.

It's quite rewarding to see a past student get fired up about things like Digital Modes, Emergency response, ARES, or some other aspect of Ham Radio and do positive things with their privileges.



We will announce the link to join the Zoom meeting before the meeting, but it will be posted to the BARS email list and should not be shared outside our Club. Are you on the email list? If not, please send an email to bars-subscribe@w1hh.org and then simply reply to the robot response from the server and you will be subscribed.

Observing our Zoom meeting requires only a web browser and headphones/speakers. You do not need a webcam or microphone unless you want to speak or be seen.

Before our meeting date, please go to <https://zoom.us/test> and see if it will function for you. If you have problems, we can try to assist – feel free to ask questions on the BARS email list.

I am looking forward to “seeing” many of you there on Wednesday, 11/5, at 1900.

Doug, N1WRN
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

From the Editor's Desk By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

As most of you know, the ARRL has stopped mailing a free physical copy of QST to members as a benefit of membership. You can still receive QST, but you now must pay a fee to help

defray the publishing costs. Or you can read the magazine for free online. Along with this change to the distribution of QST, the other ARRL magazines are also now being published for a fee or posted online.

I decided to put my money into the magazine that covers the portion of the hobby which interests me the most: the theoretical, engineering, and construction side. So, I now get QEX in my mailbox every month (or maybe every other month – I think that QEX is bimonthly). The latest issue has an excellent article on more than you ever wanted to know about inductors.

It also has a construction project: a tuner for a magnetic loop antenna. For those of you who play with antennas, you should check this out. A magnetic loop makes a good stealth antenna should you need such a thing, and it is also very portable for your POTA or Field Day station. But you must use it with a tuner; there are reasons why the tuner in your rig (if any) won't serve, having to do with feedline losses. Have a look – this could be a good project for those long winter nights.

Strays

Becoming an ARRL member or is your membership up for renewal?

One of the benefits of being an ARRL Affiliated Club is a commission for recruiting new ARRL members and securing timely ARRL member renewals.

Each new ARRL member earns the club a \$15.00 commission. New members are defined as never having been a member or a returning member that has not been a member for two years. Each renewal earns the club a \$5.00 commission. There is no limit to the amount a club can earn in this program.

Multiyear memberships earn only one commission. Life, Family, International, Blind, and Student memberships are not eligible for a commission. The member will not be eligible to receive a gift or incentive if the club collects a commission on the membership.

At least 82 BARS members are also ARRL members. If we all renewed through the club, we could potentially receive \$410 per year from the ARRL.

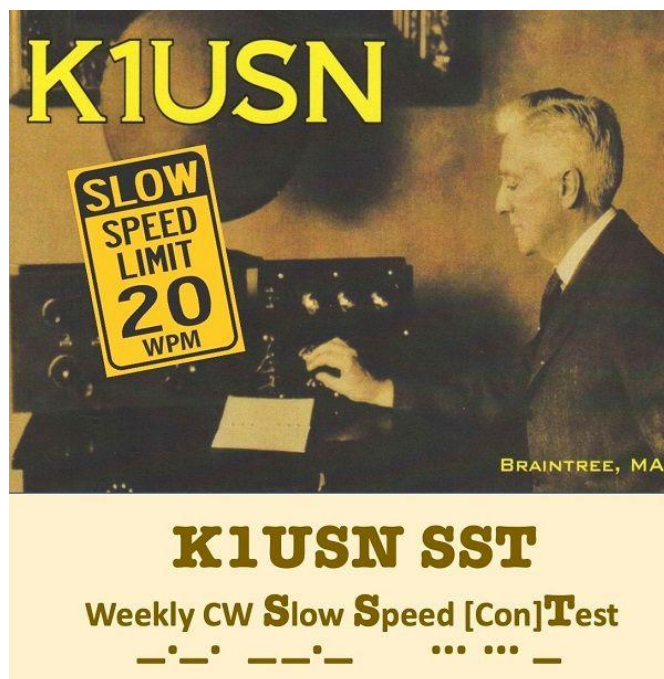
If you are interested in renewing your ARRL membership through the club fill out the following form [ARRL Affiliated Club Membership Application \(pdf\)](#). Then forward it to WILUS@hotmail.com

Friday and Sunday Night CW Slow Speed Contest

Every Friday and Sunday night, there is a weekly slow-speed CW contest run by the local K1USN guys. This is a good way to polish up your CW skills. See

<http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html> for details. Currently, the schedule is:

Fridays 20:00-21:00 UTC (3-4pm EST) and
Mondays 00:00-01:00 UTC (7-8pm EST Sunday).



-- de Tom Walsh, K1TW

Another recurring event:

Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) Weekend Sprintathon – the Saturday following the 6th of every month at 1200 UTC
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon

Is your Email address on the FCC site up to date?

§ 97.23 Mailing and email addresses.

Each license grant must show the grantee's correct name, mailing address, and email address. The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence. Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address.
[85 FR 85533, Dec. 29, 2020]

I recommend that you log on to the “your FCC Registration” at <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/updateRegistrationPre.do> to make sure that your email address is up to date. Also, in the future should you change your home address, or your email address be sure to remember to update it on the FCC site.

[The \$35 FCC application fee applies to new, renewal, rule waiver, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. The fee will be per application.]

Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, and modification applications to upgrade an amateur radio licensee's operator class or to request a sequentially issued call sign, are exempt from fees. – ed.]

--de Bruce, W1LUS

Upgrading Your License? Here's a Resource

If you are thinking of upgrading your license using one of the Online exam sites. I recommend that you take some free practice exams on HamStudy.org. I recommend it because the software used to generate practice exams on HamStudy.org is the same software that is used to create exams for online tests. By doing that when you take an online upgrade exam the test question format will be familiar. With HamStudy.org practice tests you should use the keyboard to select the answer, A, B, C, or D and not your mouse as that is the way online exams are run.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

Making ZOOM available to Elmers

In this time of social distancing, we have been using Zoom for our monthly club meetings. I have been thinking that Elmers could also be using Zoom to coach new hams instead of actually going to visit with them. Elmers could perhaps help with programming a new radio with the new ham sharing their computer screen and the Elmer helping to walk them through the process. An Elmer could have Zoom on their cell phone and show a new ham how their shack was set up. Use your imagination and see how you might use this tool. If you would like to use Zoom for this, contact Bruce, W1LUS@hotmail.com, with a date and a time and a meeting will be setup for you. You may also contact Bruce if you would like training in using Zoom to Elmer someone.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 149. There are eleven members that haven't renewed for 2025.

Anyone with a question about their renewal status can email me at W1LUS@hotmail.com to get your current membership status.

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

Secretary's Report for November 2025

Doug called the October 1st General Meeting to order at 1902 EDT. (The audio from the hall was terrible – I was only hearing Doug. So I could not tell who was attending in person.)

Club Business and announcements:

- Neice will be organizing a POTA at a local park.
- Elections will be held at the November General Meeting.
- The officers will decide if meetings will go Zoom-only for the winter months.
- The BARS Holiday Party will be held at the Great Wall, as usual, on Wednesday, January 14th, 2026.
- NearFest is this weekend. (Hope everyone enjoyed it.)
- October 9th is the monthly VE session.

The program started at 1925 and ended at 2030.

The meeting adjourned at 2030.

There were 14 participants on Zoom, and several more in the church.

(We had heavy competition from the American League Wildcard game.)

Treasurers Report for November 2025

Dues for 2025 are now due. Dues for 2025 will remain at \$15. Dues can be paid several ways:

- via bank-to-bank transfer with Zelle, Venmo, PayPal, etc. by sending \$15 to bars.dues@outlook.com,
- with credit card by using the Join/Renewal membership form on the W1HH.org website,
- or with cash or check by mailing \$15 to Billerica ARS, 16 Regis Road, Tewksbury, MA 01876

In October, we had four new/renewals for \$60 income. Our expenses were Zoom \$18.05, and PayPal \$4.04. We now have \$891.85 in the bank and \$957.17 in our PayPal account for a total of \$1849.02.

Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

BARS Does breakfast every Saturday.

On Saturday mornings at 8:15AM, we meet for a casual, social breakfast at Stelio's restaurant in Billerica.

[Stelio's Family Restaurant, Billerica, MA](#)

November Get-on-the-Air Suggestions from Andy Wallace, KA1GTT

KA1GTT Andy Wallace here. I am offering my input for this month's Get on the Air column. These are contests which can be on HF or VHF/UHF, and may be SSB (voice), CW (Morse code) or digital (FT8 etc) modes. If you are a beginner, contests can still be a lot of fun. Most of the time the rules expect you to submit electronic logs of your activity, but I know hams who simply want to exchange QSLs for confirmation.

Contests can be frantic - rapid exchanges (what info the stations pass back and forth) and careful rules of engagement. But others are more casual. It always helps to tune in stations and listen to the exchange, and get a feel for the methods.

One of the best resources for finding out what contests are upcoming is the WA7BNM website and his 8 day contest calendar at:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

This gives a snapshot of the next 8 days and you can instantly see what contests are longer term (like across weekends) and thus more popular.

The 12-month calendar is excellent for getting a snapshot of an entire month in advance. Surprisingly, I find it has more contests listed than the "Perpetual" site view. The 12 month is what I used to compile this month's hot contests.

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.php>

Of note: contests are listed in UTC (Coordinated Universal Time or Greenwich Mean Time or Zulu) day and date. This is the time going through the 0 degree meridian (Greenwich, U.K.). If you are new to hamming you need to know hams historically use UTC to align with hams around the world in a way that being on the air at a certain time is simple. We're in Eastern Standard Time right now, so that means UTC is 5 hours ahead of us. 0000Z being midnight Zulu/UTC/GMT translates to 7:00 PM EST. So for a typical contest, the start of the contest is 00:01UTC November 7 (Saturday). Subtract five hours and you better have your rig ready at 7:01PM EST Friday evening.

Here is KA1GTT's list of top contests for this month - and please remember these are best-guesses on my part.

1. ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW ***

<https://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>
2100Z, Nov 1 to 0300Z, Nov 3, 2025

Exchange: Serial No. + Precedence (Q/A/B/U/M/S) + [your call sign] + Check + ARRL/RAC Section
Comments: the exchange for this CW only contest is rather daunting. If you use N1MM or another program to help you this makes things much easier. Bands will be hopping!

2. Classic Exchange, Phone

<http://www.classicexchange.org/>
https://www.classicexchange.org/announcements/CX_Rules.pdf

1400Z, Nov 2 to 0800Z, Nov 3 and 1400Z, Nov 4 to 0800Z, Nov 5, 2025

Exchange: Name + RS + (state/province/country) + rcvr/xmtr manuf/model

Comments: The Classic Exchange has been running for many years and the idea is to get on the air with vintage, vacuum tube ham gear like the "old days". You can still participate with a newer rig. Even just listening in can be fascinating - see the .pdf for suggested frequencies. You'll hear guys describe the gear and you'll have to give them some slack as they take awhile to switch from receive to transmit, peak the grid and dip the plate, and drift up and down the band like a Mississippi barge! Please take time to tune around Nov 2-3-4 and enjoy hearing all the old gear.

3. CQ-WE Contest (CQ Western Electric)

<https://w8zpf.com/cqwe/>
1900Z-2300Z, Nov 8 (CW/Digital) and 0100Z-0500Z, Nov 9 (Phone) and 1900Z-2300Z, Nov 9 (Phone) and 0100Z-0500Z, Nov 10 (CW/Digital), 2025

Exchange: Name + Location Code (see rules) + Years of Service (see rules)

Comments: this is a really specialized contest for people who were or are employees of Western Electric!

4. AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party

<https://antiquewireless.org/homepage/bk-qso-party-details/>

2300Z, Nov 8 to 0300Z, Nov 10 and 2300Z, Nov 15 to 0300Z, Nov 17, 2025

Exchange: RST + Name + QTH + Eqpt Year + Transmitter Type (see rules for format) + Input Power(W)

Comments: this is another CW (Morse code) only contest on 160 thru 20 meters. The amazing thing here is the transmitter must be a design from 1929 or older! (Parts can be newer.) My dad, W1HH, built two transmitters of this sort and someday I'd like to get them on the air. Tune across these bands during the contest and you will hear CW signals that normally would get an FCC violation for chirp, hum, and drift. But that's what people dealt with back then.

5. CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW ***

<https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>
0000Z, Nov 29 to 2400Z, Nov 30, 2025

Exchange: RST + CQ Zone No. (MA/NH is CQ Zone 5)

<https://cqww.com/resources.htm>

Comments: this is another big one for November!

6. ARRL EME Contest

<https://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

50-1296 MHz: 0000Z, Nov 8 to 2359Z, Nov 9, 2025
Exchange: 4-character grid square (standard signal report acceptable for analog modes if grid square not possible)

Comments: so EME stands for Earth-Moon-Earth believe it or not. Common parlance in ham circles: MOONBOUNCE! You point a VHF antenna at the moon and bounce signals off it to another point on the Earth. No, not with a HT and a rubber duck. Most of the time this takes advanced antennas and equipment. As a guy who rarely ventures about 30 MHz nevermind 54, I've never done this. However, there's AT LEAST ONE BARS MEMBER who has done it and – who knows – may be on for this one!

** Top recommendation for this month

Reminder: details on each of these contests above – and more events – can be found every week on the WA7BNM contest calendar at:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php?mode=custom&week=current>

Final comment: Not a whole lot of activity this November but there's the list to start with. If you get on and enjoy operating one of these events, please send an email to the BARS email reflector, bars@w1hh.org.

BARS Needs You!!!

We are looking for a few good hams to act as net control on the regularly scheduled Wednesday night nets! All it takes is one night a month; if you are interested contact Doug, N1WRN.

Also, the club needs volunteers for light tasks of about 1 hour a month. Are you able to pitch in? Contact Doug Bruce, N1WRN.

Wednesday Night Net

Join us on the Westford 146.955 Repeater for the weekly BARS net each Wednesday at 8:00 PM (**except on the first Wednesday of the month which is club meeting night**).

Note: Thanks to the Westford Police Amateur Radio Team (PART) for their generous act of making their repeater available to us.

Repeater info:

WB1GOF

146.955 MHz

-600 kHz (normal) offset

Encode CTCSS 74.4 Hz

Reminder: “kerchunking” the repeater is not only impolite, it’s illegal. It constitutes an unidentified transmission. If you need to check that you’re making the repeater, say something like “This is <your call> standing by on the frequency.” Thanks for your courtesy.

Club Meetings

Club meetings are held in person (weather permitting) and via Zoom. A link will be sent via the BARS email reflector to all currently paid-up members who might wish to attend via Zoom.

Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM Eastern time.

VE Sessions

Our VE sessions are held in-person at the Chelmsford Bible Church. Pre-registration for our in-person exams is suggested. Contact w1lus@hotmail.com for registration information.

VE sessions are held every month on the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 PM at Chelmsford Bible Church, 128 Gorham St., Chelmsford MA. Park in back and enter by rear door. [Chelmsford Bible Church Hall, 128 Gorham St, Rear Door, Chelmsford MA 01824-3220 \(map\)](#)

VE Session Report for October 2025

We had three people show up for the October 9 VE exam session. Results were one new Technician, one General and one Extra upgrade. The new Technician will have to wait until the FCC/Government shutdown ends to get his callsign.

The two upgrades each received a CSCE that allows them to immediately use their new privileges. So don’t let the FCC/Gov. shutdown stop you from upgrading. With your upgrade CSCE you can immediately use your upgrade privileges.

Our next exam session will be on November 13 at 7:00 PM at the Chelmsford Bible Church. Thanks to Niece, KA1ULN, Shawn, N1CVO, and Bill, W1ZL, for their help conducting this exam session.

While walk-ins are still welcome it speeds the process up if you pre-register for your BARS VE exam session at HamStudy.org.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

Future Meetings

The next BARS General Meeting will be held via Zoom and at the Chelmsford Bible Church on November 5th at 7:00 PM. The November meeting will include the election of officers for 2026. For those who prefer, a Zoom link will be sent in the club email feed prior to the meeting.

Subscribe to the BARS Mailing List

To subscribe to the BARS email list, send a blank email to bars-subscribe@w1hh.org and watch for an automated reply. Note that bars-subscribe is all one word.

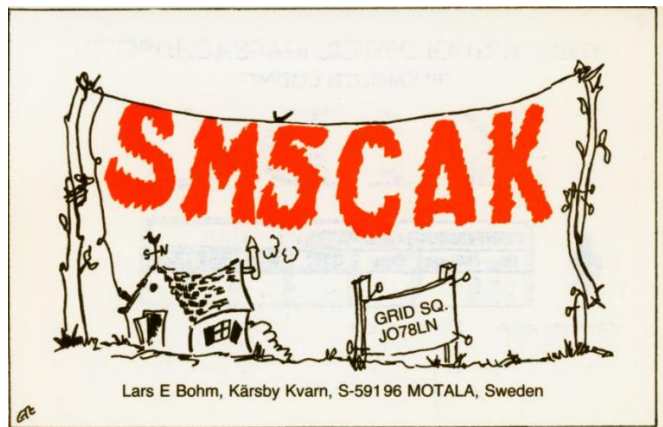
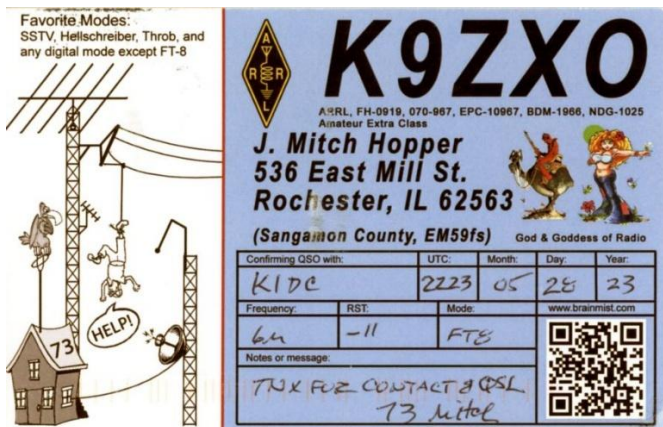
Reply to that message from the list server and you are then subscribed.

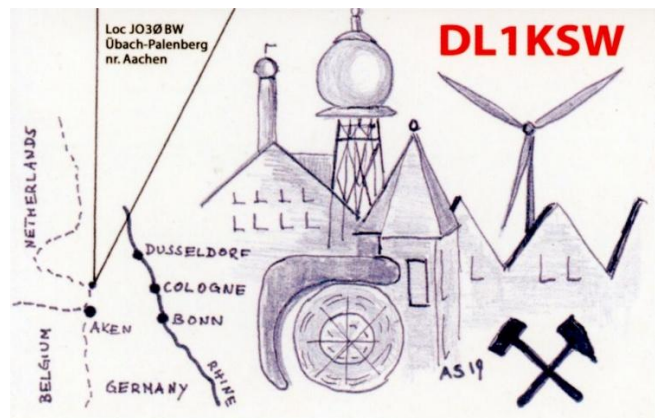
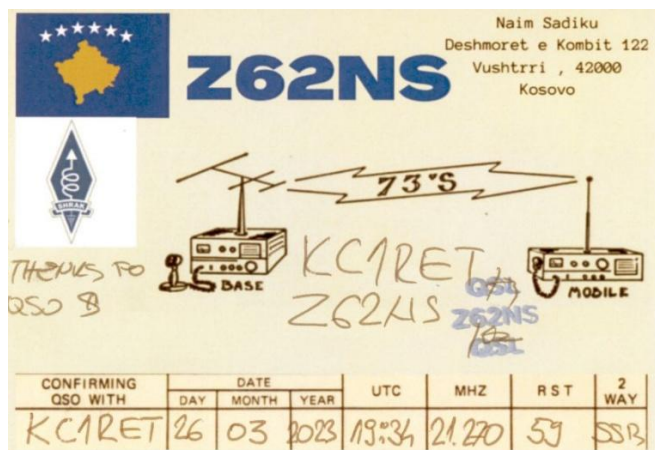
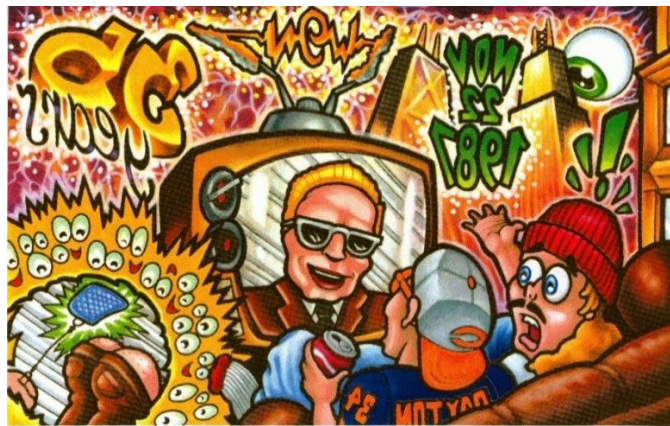
To post to the list, address your email to bars@w1hh.org

Photo Feature: From the Mailbag

With CQ WW SSB last weekend and two more 'majors' coming up in the next few weeks contest season has arrived! With it comes less time for radio projects as we spend our radio time trying to find a clear run frequency on 40 (ha!... as if...) and negotiating with family for dedicated BIC time. Sooo... I'm falling back to my 'theme series' of posts – this month is hand drawn cards.

Although not one of my original 'Elmers', I had a neighbor as a kid who was a ham. William 'Bill' Sempert – K8OHC or "Old Horse Collar". It is one of those things that sticks in your head as a kid, that mnemonic. I would never have remembered his call without that memory trigger phrase. Like my Dad, he served in the Air Force during the Korean war. Bill became a silent key in 2010 and his call is currently unassigned. I was lucky to find one of his cards.





Show Me Your Cards! I would like to highlight cards from our club members. Send me a scan of your card, or just mail one to me. Or, bring one to the next club meeting and I'll collect them. Thanks!

As always, if you have received any interesting cards, hand-drawn or not, please send them along to

k1dc.radio@gmail.com

and I'll share them with the group!

73, Tim/K1DC

BARS Leadership Team

OFFICERS:

President: Doug Bruce, N1WRN
Vice President: Mark Nelson, KA1INE
Treasurer: Bruce Anderson, W1LUS
Secretary: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF
BoD: Bill Poulin, WZ1L
BoD: Steve Wedge, W1ES/4
Ex Officio: Gary Frascarelli, W1GFF

VOLUNTEERS:

Net Coordinator: Doug Bruce, N1WRN
Newsletter Editor: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF
New Member Outreach: John Fisher, KC1FTJ
Field Day Chair: Mark Nelson, KA1INE